

Message Text

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14

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCA-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 PA-03 INR-10 /059 W

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P 261012Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2400

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS UR PFOR PINT

SUBJ: ACCESS TO EMBASSY: BARABANOV AND SAKHAROV'S STEPCHILDREN

REF: MOSCOW 11582, 11589

1. EMBASSY CONSOFFS OFFER FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON QUESTION OF VISIT BY SAKHAROV'S STEPCHILDREN (11582) AND BARABANOV (11589) TO CONSULAR SECTION TO DISCUSS THEIR VISA STATUS.

2. BECAUSE OF INTENSE WESTERN PRESS INTEREST IN CASES OF SAKHAROV AND BARABANOV, IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT ENTRY OF STEPCHILDREN AND BARABANOV TO EMBASSY WILL BE FOCUE OF MORE THAN ROUTINE ATTENTION FROM BOTH WESTERN PRESS AND SOVIETS. IT IS NOT INCONCEIVABLE THAT SAKHAROV WILL USE OCCASION TO PUBLICIZE HIS OWN SITUATION. DEPENDING

ON EXTENT TO WHICH INTERESTED PARTIES DISSEMINATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE EVENT, EMBASSY CAN CONCEIVE "WORST CASE" SCENARIO EMBRACING CONFRONTATION IN FRONT OF EMBASSY BETWEEN WESTERN PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS, BEEFED-UP MILITIA GUARDS, SOVIET VISITORS AND CONSOFFS.

3. NEEDLES TO SAY EMBASSY WISHES TO AVOID CONSPICUOUS CONFRONTATION AND PUBLICITY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. ON OTHER HAND, EMBASSY FEELS STRONGLY THAT ACCESS TO EMBASSY FOR THOSE WITH ELGITIMATE CONSULAR BUSINESS SHOULD BE UNRESTRICTED. IN NUMEROUS REPRESENTATIONS TO MFA, EMBASSY HAS MADE CLEAR IT CONSIDERS SOVIET CITIZENS WHO CONTEMPLATE TRAVLE TO US HAVE RIGHT TO DISCUSS VISA QUESTIONS WITH CONSULAR OFFICERS EVEN IF SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION

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HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED. SOVIET MFA HAS NEVER TO OUR KNOWLEDGE

ACCEDED TO US POSITION ON UNIMPEDED CONSULAR ACCESS IN ANY WRITTEN FORM, AND MILITIAMEN ARBITRARILY INTRECEPT ALL SOVIET-LOOKING VISITORS FOR SCREENING AND FREQUENTLY DENY ENTRY TO THOSE WITHOUT SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION.

4. EMBASSY'S FORM INVITATION LETTER (MOSCOW 11582) HAS OBIATED SOME OF GROSSER PROBLEMS BUT MILITIA INTERFERENCE WITH ACCESS OCCURS EACH DAY AND RISK OF UGLY CONFRONTATION IS ALWAYS CLOSE TO SURFACE. FOR EXAMPLE, ON SEPT 24, CONSULAR OFFICER PERSONALLY HAD TO CONDUCT INTO EMBASSY ARMENIAN HUSBAND OF AMERICAN CITIZEN AS WELL AS SEVERAL WOULD-BE US IMMIGRANTS. ALTHOUGH UNFRIENDLY WORDS WERE EXCHANGED WITH MILITIAMEN, THERE WAS NO INCIDENT.

5. ACCESS OF SOVIET CITIZENS WITHOUT EXIT PERMISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED MOST READILY WHEN CONSULAR OFFICER MEETS INTENDING VISITOR IN FRONT OF EMBASSY AND BRISKLY WALKS HIM PAST MILITIAMEN INTO COMPOUND WITH FORM LETTER HELD OUT FOR MILITIAMEN. VARIATION ON THIS TACTIC SIMPLY PROVIDES THAT VISITOR MAKES INITIAL ATTEMPT TO ENTER ALONE WITH LETTER, AND IF STOPPED OR DETAINED, COMMUNICATES BY TELEPHONE WITH CONSULAR OFFICER TO ARRANGE WALK-IN IN HIS COMPANY.

6. IN SAKHAROV STEPCHILDREN AND BARABANOV CASES, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO MINIMIZE RISK OF CONFRONTATION BY (A) ADVISING WOULD-BE VISITORS THAT EMBASSY COUNSEL AND ASSISTANCE CANNOT BE EXPECTED IF THEIR OBJECTIVE IS OSTENTATIOUS CONFRONTATION IN FRONT OF EMBASSY. IN ORAL MESSAGE DISCREETLY PASSED TO SAKHAROV STEPCHILDREN AND BARABANOV, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THEIR VISIT TO EMBASSY, TO EXTENT THEY CAN CONTROL ITS NATURE, SHOULD BE AS UNOBTRUSIVE AS POSSIBLE. (B) CONSOFFS ADDITIONALLY WILL PERSONALLY MEET PROSPECTIVE VISITORS, WHO WILL BE PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED WITH INVITATION LETTER SPECIFYING APPOINTMENT, AND WILL CONDUCT THEM INTO EMBASSY. OBSTRUCTION OF VISITORS WOULD IMMEDIATELY RAISE NEED TO CONSIDER FORMAL PROTEST.

7. IN EVENT DEPARTMENT WISHES TO MAKE COMMENTS ON ABOVE PROPOSALS, EMBASSY WILL POSTPONE TAKING ACTION ENDORSED IN REFTEL UNTIL SEPT 27 AT EARLIEST.
DUBS

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Draft Date: 26 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS DUBS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
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ISecure: 1
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30 JUN 2005

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